6: Kirchhoff--35 U-4 (no date) 1895 Formosans
342

. . . most of the houses are built of bamboo or clay, only a few of brick. The roofs of the houses, which are without exception low, are of straw or slate, and cannot be seen for the seven or eight months of the worst heat, for they are then covered by the huge sheets of canvas that are stretched over the streets.

12: Garnot--19 G-3 (1884-85) 1894 Formosans
116, 342, 363

Kelung is a city of 10,000 inhabitants that is squeezed between the roadstead and the mountain, but it resembles all Chinese cities in that it is simply an agglomeration of houses built of wood, brick and mud. The narrow fronts are carved and painted in various colors and they are crowded together in dark alleys which are paved with broad granite blocks. The upper floors project over the street ... until they touch in some places and they make it difficult to obtain any fresh air. Wooden bridges connect the various sections that were built on the little islands dotting the estuary.

Except for the important group of houses at Loan-Loan or Wang-Wang the dwellings in the region around Kelung are scattered here and there at the foot of the hills or in the groves composed of bamboo, banana or areca trees. Most of the houses are fairly neat and they are made of a bamboo framework that is covered with rice straw. The corner supports are made of several beams that were taken from the neighboring forest and planted securely in the ground. The skeleton is a bamboo wattling and the whole thing is solidly tied together with little cords and pegs of the same kind. A broad pent-roof runs around the dwelling and protects it both from the sun and the rain. Very few of these houses have windows and they are all equipped with movable doors which can be dropped at night. The floor is covered with a kind of concrete made of lime and sand.

The land around the dwelling is enclosed by a bamboo hedge [20] and it is an orchard as well as a vegetable garden; you see banana trees, arecas, oranges and lemons, then there are litchis and mangoes, sweet potatoes and the kind of taro that grows in swamps.

15: U. S. Navy--28 [4] (no date) 1944 Formosans
116, 342, 353, 513

"Certain features are common to the majority of country houses in Taiwan. The usual construction takes the form of three units, a main room or building, with two wings closely adjoining to form three sides of an open courtyard. The doors and windows opening on this court are larger than the few doors and windows opening on the outer side, and these latter are usually closely barred. The main room or building is open to the roof and contains the altar bearing the ancestral tablets and perhaps a small shrine. Immediately behind the altar or in rooms opening into the main room, the eldest members of the family sleep and keep their personal effects. Passages to right and left lead to kitchen rooms and the sleeping and living quarters of other members of the family."

15: U.S. Navy--28 [5]
116, 342, 592, 352, 354

(no date) 1944

Formosans

"Usually at least three generations are resident in a house. If the family is a large one, there are many additional rooms and buildings, all arranged symmetrically at the side and back of the main court. If the [MC: country] house is a large one and quite prosperous, there may be a series of courts one behind the other. The roof of the main building or room dominates the whole structure. The floors are tile, brick or tamped earth. Lighting arrangements are poor. The house is furnished with chairs, tables and beds in Chinese style, which is not unlike Occidental furniture."

15: U.S. Navy--28 [6] (no date) 1944 Formosans
116, 342, 352, 262

"Poorer [MC: country] people live in huts made of unbaked clay bricks, with heavy thatched roofs, tamped earth floor and the most meager furniture of benches and tables. Pork, rice and a variety of cooked vegetables form the basis of their diet."

9: Yamasaki--231 [3] N-5 (1896-1897) 1900 Formosans
116, 137, 313, 342, 501

As the name of Formosa shows, we find all over the island very heavy tropical vegetation.

Bamboo. This grows everywhere on inhabited plains and hills. The useful species become much thicker and larger than in Japan. It is used for many purposes. In the mountains the inhabitants build their huts of it, and in South Taiwan the fishermen build of it their boats and Teppai or Takamalan. These latter are curious sailing boats with raft-like bottoms of bamboo stems laid beside each other.

5: U.S. Navy--28 [8] (no date) 1944 Formosans
16, 342, 362

"Most urban houses have a narrow frontage in proportion to their depth--14, 16 or 18 feet
re usual, with depths of the building ranging from 24, 30 to 36 feet. A court may inter-
ene and a second or even a third building of the same proportions be added beyond inter-
ening courts. Houses look much alike and since they abut upon one another, they pre-
ent a tenement-like aspect. They are shabby and often quite unclean. In towns and cities
he average building is two stories high. Sometimes the space above the street arcade
s open, forming a balcony."

15: U.S. Navy--31 (no date) 1944 Formosans
116, 511, 177, 563, 342

"The Japanese have the highest average living standards. Insofar as their mode of living is concerned there is little to distinguish the Japanese here from the Japanese in the homeland, except that the wage scale of the former is higher. Without modification the Japanese retain their native style of architecture, which is admirably suited to a sub-tropical climate. A platform is raised about two feet over the ground. On it a layer of thick straw mats is laid. A tile roof is erected over this and the space between roof and floor enclosed by light planking and sliding panels of glass panes or paper."

31: Hofmann--604 [2] N-3 (1909) 1912 Formosans
116, 133, 231, 241, 311, 342

We travelled from Taihoku by train for 1 1/2 hours until we came to the small village of Toyen. Here the land is almost level and has been utilized to the fullest extent. The extensive rice plantations were green and threw into relief the picturesque houses of the Chinese; these are solid brick houses with a curved roof reminiscent of Buddhist temples. In the canals, for which the tributaries of the Tamsui are utilized, there are numerous tame ducks. In the small ponds one may see grey water buffalo, a domestic animal which occurs in large numbers of Formosa. It cannot be compared to European cattle as regards its usefulness in agriculture, and so far attempts to domesticate it have not been successful. Many times I saw the patient Chinese peasants threatened by the buffalo or saw that the animal had broken loose. Next to the rice fields there are extensive tea plantations. This is the region where the famous Oolong tea is produced. There are also banana and pineapple plantations on a smaller scale. The houses are surrounded by slender bamboo trees, and everywhere one may see betel palms, a tree which grows everywhere on Formosa.

31: Hofmann--630-631 N-3 (1909) 1912 Formosans
116, 342, 423, 556

In Tainan I stayed in an old house which belonged to a member of the Chinese nobility; there I was able to observe the luxury with which the Chinese surround themselves. Many of the Chinese have accumulated considerable wealth on Formosa; there are several millionaires among them who had remained after the conquest of the island, while others fled to the mainland with all their possessions. In contrast to the Japanese, who throughout their history have looked down upon capitalists and traders, who even despise merchants and today still do not always accept them socially, the Chinese are all motivated by a desire for profit. The pioneers among them took large areas of the most fertile land from the natives; these were leased and subleased to later immigrants. Thus when the Japanese took possession of Formosa they encountered a complicated system of land ownership and tenure which yielded great profits to some individuals. In the management of real estate problems, [631] which resulted in the large-scale exploitation of tenants and subtenants, the new regime has constantly taken the side of the exploited and it has succeeded in bringing order into the system as a whole. There is still a wide field of activity for the Chinese capitalists, however, since they apply only to their compatriots for credit, never to the Japanese.

31: Hofmann--631 [2] N-3 (1909) 1912 Formosans
116, 342, 351, 871

These Chinese capitalists know how to live luxuriously; their houses are beautiful even by European standards. A drive leads from the street to a large garden enclosed by the house and annexes. There are high, cool porticos leading to the residence proper. Many of the houses have a small theater. Since in former times there were no public schools in China, or at least none that were attended by the children of the rich, the Chinese here have set aside one wing of the building for the children and their tutors. As the Chinese ideal is to have a large family and this ideal is often realized, this wing is usually very large. In the center of the courtyard, there is a pond. There are small arbors and arcades arranged in excellent taste. From the terrace one has a beautiful view of the estate, which is hidden from the observer on the street. The house where I stayed had been made into a Japanese hotel but the features characteristic of the original estate had been retained.